Post-Consumer Textiles Value Chain

Primary movement of post-consumer textiles through the value chain. Note that materials also move between Functions and Process/Features.

Collection →

Public drop-off

- Special events
- Recycling facilities

- Textiles mixed with other household
- Products mostly loose or bagged, not baled or compacted

Private pick-up

- Garbage/recycling subscription service
- Mixed textiles
- items

Processing

Sorting

- Primarily manual
- Local to global sourcing and markets
- Local and regional operations
- Sort up to dozens of grades
- Products include clothes, shoes and accessories
- Packaging and shipping products in bales, bags, boxes and gaylords

Grading

Enhance Value and

Move Material

Consolidation

Brokering

Wholesaling

Shipping

- Manual and highly mechanized
- Local to global sourcing and markets
- Sort up to hundreds of grades
- Same as "sorting" products (above), with more specificity and combinations of sorted and graded items for more diverse and global markets
- Packaging and shipping products in bales, bags, boxes, and gaylords

Fiber conversion

- Convert fabric into fiber
- Process lower-quality and mixed textiles
- Shoddy
- Other fiber products

Enhance Value and

Move Material

Consolidation

Brokering

Wholesaling

Shipping

Markets

(In order of highest and next best use.)

Resale and rewear

- Second-hand sales
- Informal sharing activities
- Local to global markets
- High-end fashion items to mismatched shoes

Repurpose and reuse

- Adapt for a different purpose/use
- Wiping rags
- Absorbent materials
- Use materials to create new products - toys, clothing, accessories

Recycle/downcycle

- Fiber reclamation to produce raw materials and new products
- Insulation
- Padding for carpet, mattresses, upholstery and other applications
- Fill for automotive industry, toys, furniture, pillows
- Towels, rugs, blankets
- Bi-products of processing; sometimes burned for energy (for example, dust bricks)
- Building products (emerging)

Recycle/closed loop

- Closed-loop remanufacturing of textiles specifically designed for this purpose
- Textiles remanufactured into the same product or product line

Thrift stores

- Drop boxes/drop-off sites

- Retail take-back
- Mixed textiles

- Residential curbside pick-up service
- Charity or other organization
- Commercial/industrial pick-up service
- Textiles mixed with other household
- Commercial rag grades
- Commercial linen grades
- Products mostly loose or bagged, not baled or compacted

King County Linlup

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10-15-2013

materials, such as cottons, wools, silks, woven nylon, rayon, polyesters and leather.

@ TO

Includes clothing,

linens, shoes, bags/

purses, backpacks,

hats, belts, stuffed

upholstery, and other

and synthetic fabrics/

animals, pillows,

similar products

made from natural

fabric scraps,

rags, curtains,

Inputs

Products mostly loose or bagged.

materials, such as books and household goods, are often collected in conjunction with the textiles on which this value chain focuses.

Note: Other non-textile

Primary Links

Key/Legend

Process/Features **Function Products/Outputs**